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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1255
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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RUALSFJ/COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB JA PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 0091
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 3583
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 5996
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EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION Q DPRK - TOKYO

LEAD STORIES: Most Tuesday morning papers front-paged
Treasury Secretary Paulson's meeting Monday with Finance
Minister Omi in Tokyo.

1. "Japan and US Should Work Together to Resolve
Abduction Issue" The liberal Mainichi editorialized
(3/6): "...Difficult negotiations are expected over the
abduction issue at Japan-DPRK working-group talks to be
held Wednesday and Thursday in Hanoi. Japan needs to
maintain its basic position of not normalizing diplomatic
relations with North Korea without a settlement of the
abduction issue. At the same time, as a participant in
the six-party talks, Japan has a responsibility to get
Pyongyang to give up its nuclear programs. Japan must
cooperate closely with the US so as not to allow the DPRK
to create an 'escape route' regarding the nuclear and
abduction issues.... The US and North Korea will begin
their own working-group talks in New York prior to the
Japan-DPRK meeting in Hanoi. At the US-DPRK talks, both
sides are expected to begin work to delist North Korea as
a state sponsor of terrorism. As Vice President Cheney
recently made remarks calling a resolution of the
abduction issue a joint goal for the US and Japan, the
GOJ believes that the US is unlikely to unilaterally
delist the North without progress on denuclearization.
The US should not make any easy compromises."

SCHIEFFER